

In the Claims

Cancel without prejudice, claims 44, 45, 51, and 52, amend claims 46, 50, 53, 57, 63, and 64, and add new claims 73 and 74.

1-43. (canceled).

44, 45. (canceled).

46. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 44,~~ A wood chipping apparatus,
comprising:

a knife having a back side, said back side having a first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature therein, wherein said knife has and a front side, wherein said front and back sides co-terminate in two spaced apart cutting edges lying in a plane, said front side including, in correspondence with said cutting edges, a respective two spaced apart and similar projecting interlocking features that project a maximum distance from said plane, and

an inner clamping member comprising a projection terminating in a second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature that is complementary in form to said first interlocking feature for engagement therewith, for clamping said knife in the wood chipping apparatus, said projection extending from said inner clamping member so as to permit rotation of said knife relative thereto during said engagement.

47. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said projecting

interlocking features include, corresponding with said cutting edges, two spaced apart deflector ridges projecting away from said front side a maximum distance from said plane.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive at least one of said deflector ridges during said engagement.

49. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is convex.

50. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~46~~ 44, ~~wherein said knife has a front side, said front and back sides co-terminating in said cutting edge, said front side including a projecting interlocking feature,~~ the apparatus further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive at least one of said projecting interlocking features.

51, 52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 51,~~ A wood chipping apparatus,
comprising:

a knife having a back side, said back side having a first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature therein, ~~wherein said knife has~~ and a front side, wherein said front and back sides co-

terminate in two spaced apart cutting edges lying in a plane, said front side including, in correspondence with said cutting edges, a respective two spaced apart and similar projecting interlocking features that project a maximum distance from said plane, and

a clamp for clamping said knife by applying a clamping force thereto, said clamp comprising a projection terminating in a second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature that is complementary in form to said first interlocking feature for engagement therewith, substantially the entirety of said clamping force being transmitted through said engagement.

54. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein said projecting interlocking features include, corresponding with said cutting edges, two spaced apart deflector ridges projecting away from said front side a maximum distance from said plane.

55. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive at least one of said deflector ridges during said engagement.

56. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein said first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is convex.

57. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~53~~ 51, ~~wherein said knife has a front side, said front and back sides co-terminating in said cutting edge, said front side including a~~

~~projecting interlocking feature~~, the apparatus further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive at least one of said projecting interlocking features.

58-60. (canceled)

61. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein each said deflector ridge terminates in a single linear edge disposed said maximum distance from said plane.

62. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein each of said deflector ridges defines an associated knife-edge-joining portion providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on the deflector ridge that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge.

63. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein each said deflector ridge terminates in a single linear edge disposed said maximum distance from said plane.

64. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein each of said deflector ridges defines an associated knife-edge-joining portion providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on the deflector ridge that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge.

65. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein each said deflector ridge

terminates in a single linear edge disposed said maximum distance from said plane.

66. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein each of said deflector ridges defines an associated knife-edge-joining portion providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on the deflector ridge that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge.

67. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein each said deflector ridge terminates in a single linear edge disposed said maximum distance from said plane.

68. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein each of said deflector ridges defines an associated knife-edge-joining portion providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on the deflector ridge that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge.

69 (previously presented). The apparatus of claim 55, wherein each said deflector ridge terminates in a single linear edge disposed said maximum distance from said plane.

70. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein each of said deflector ridges defines an associated knife-edge-joining portion providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on the deflector ridge that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge.

71. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein each said deflector ridge terminates in a single linear edge disposed said maximum distance from said plane.

72. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein each of said deflector ridges defines an associated knife-edge-joining portion providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on the deflector ridge that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge.

73. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is convexly curved.

74. (new) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein said first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is convexly curved.